New policy for airport development

321. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to formulate a new policy to facilitate hurdle-free development of new airports in future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of new airports that are proposed to be developed hassle-free under the new rules in Orissa and Jharkhand States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) A New Greenfield Airport Policy has been pronounced by the Government in April, 2008. Its salient features are:

(i) An inter-Ministerial Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Civil Aviation would coordinate and monitor various clearances required for the greenfield airport projects.

(ii) Terms and conditions of all the concerned agencies like DGCA, Security, Defence etc. would be prescribed up-front.

(iii) If the proposal is to set up a new airport within an aerial distance of 150 kms. from an existing airport, it would be considered by a Steering Committee and thereafter by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(iv) All reserved activities to be performed at the airport by central agencies like immigration, customs etc. would be on cost recovery basis.

(c) No proposal has been received for setting up of greenfield airports in the States of Orissa and Jharkhand.

Determination of air fare

322. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the authority who decides the air fare on each of air-routes;

(b) whether his Ministry has any role to see the rationalization of rates of air fare;

(c) the reasons for abnormal charges by JET Airways on Delhi-Amritsar route in Economy class; and

(d) the reasons for Indian Airlines to have only one flight on this route whereas JET Airways is having two flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Air fares are not being regulated by the Government. Airlines are free to charge air fares as per the market forces.

(d) Governments has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

Bird hit at Delhi Airport

323. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Air Mauritius plane caught fire after being hit by a bird just as it was taking off from Delhi Airport on 24 July, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to prevent such accidents of planes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) An incident of bird hit had occurred to Air Mauritius Flight MAU745, A-330 aircraft at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport while operating flight Delhi to Mauritius on 24/07/2008. During take off roll bird hit occurred and pilot rejected take off at high speed and applied brake. Due to application of sudden braking, wheel assembly got heated and emitted smoke. Full emergency was declared by ATC. There were total 252 persons on board. All passengers were evacuated through emergency slide chute on taxiway. 53 passengers sustained minor injury.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at those airports where scheduled flights operate to identify the sources of bird attraction and take remedial steps for prevention of such incidents. Various specific steps such as proper disposal of garbage, prevention of water logging, coverage of garbage bins, establishment of modern abattoirs, scaring of birds etc. have been taken to reduce the incidence of bird hits.

Flying schools in Philippines and Malaysia

324. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some of the flying schools in Philippines and Malaysia are taking short cuts by fudging the mandatory 200 hour flying experience and providing commercial Pilot Licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of Indian students are getting training from such schools;